

**To:** Blumeris, Barbara R NAE[barbara.r.blumeris@usace.army.mil]; bethany.card@state.ma.us[bethany.card@state.ma.us]; bhotz@forestsociety.org[bhotz@forestsociety.org]; Clarke, Christine - NRCS, Amherst, MA[christine.clarke@ma.usda.gov]; Caroly Shumway[cshumway@merrimack.org]; clarermendelsohn@fs.fed.us[clarermendelsohn@fs.fed.us]; cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us[cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us]; Colin Lawson[clawson@tu.org]; cwell@plcnh.org[cwell@plcnh.org]; David Patrick[david.patrick@tnc.org]; Neils, David[david.neils@des.nh.gov]; Dianne Timmins[dianne.timmins@wildlife.nh.gov]; djelliott@dot.state.nh.us[djelliott@dot.state.nh.us]; Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell[eac@nashuariverwatershed.org]; Stephen Perry[ebtjv.coordinator@gmail.com]; elizabeth.mccann@state.ma.us[elizabeth.mccann@state.ma.us]; Erin Rodgers[erodgers@tu.org]; Garrigan, Trish[garrigan.trish@epa.gov]; gene porter[gporter77@gmail.com]; info@nhrrivers.org[info@nhrrivers.org]; Nield, Jade - NRCS, Durham, NH[jade.nield@nh.usda.gov]; john.magee@wildlife.nh.gov[john.magee@wildlife.nh.gov]; jmorrison@northcountylandtrust.org[jmorrison@northcountylandtrust.org]; juliablatt@massriversalliance.org[juliablatt@massriversalliance.org]; Honkonen, Karl W - FS[karlwhonkonen@fs.fed.us]; Simmons, K R -FS[krsimmons@fs.fed.us]; Nelson, Kirsten[kirsten.nelson@des.nh.gov]; Herland, Libby[libby\_herland@fws.gov]; lvernegaard@svtweb.org[lvernegaard@svtweb.org]; Ed Himlan[mwc@commonwaters.org]; matthew.carpenter@wildlife.nh.gov[matthew.carpenter@wildlife.nh.gov]; michael.stroman@state.ma.us[michael.stroman@state.ma.us]; michael.marchand@wildlife.nh.gov[michael.marchand@wildlife.nh.gov]; Bailey, Michael[michael\_bailey@fws.gov]; Fleming, Mike (DCR)[mike.fleming@state.ma.us]; Moraff, Kenneth[Moraff.Ken@epa.gov]; mlt@naturesource.net[mlt@naturesource.net]; Hazelton, Peter (FWE)[peter.hazelton@state.ma.us]; rick.ellsmore@nh.usda.gov[rick.ellsmore@nh.usda.gov]; ssullivan@neiwpcc.org[ssullivan@neiwpcc.org]; Susan.Francher@dred.nh.gov[Susan.Francher@dred.nh.gov]; Sprague, Sandra J (DOT)[Sandra.J.Sprague@state.ma.us]; Sue Flint[sflint@oars3rivers.org]; sking@neiwpcc.org[sking@neiwpcc.org]; Spalding, Curt[Spalding.Curt@epa.gov]; Landry, Steve[stephen.landry@des.nh.gov]; Dexter, Timothy (DOT)[timothy.dexter@state.ma.us]  
**Cc:** Evan Grant[Ehgrant@usgs.gov]; Benjamin Letcher[bletcher@usgs.gov]; Allison Roy[aroy@eco.umass.edu]; Hocking, Daniel[dhocking@usgs.gov]; Michael C Runge[mrunge@usgs.gov]  
**From:** Rachel Katz  
**Sent:** Mon 9/28/2015 1:57:41 PM  
**Subject:** Merrimack Watershed (Headwater Streams) Cooperative - Update

September 28, 2015

Merrimack Watershed Cooperative Partners -

**Thank you again for understanding our in last minute canceling of the Merrimack Watershed Bi-State Cooperative meeting initially scheduled to take place this past July in Concord, NH.** As indicated during the cancelation, we felt that the initial intent of the meeting was missed in that many NH and MA partners involved in headwater stream management and conservation decisions were not able to attend. Although many partners were interested and committed to attending, there was expressed concern over the purpose and direction of a full 1-2 day workshop and how it would contribute to current efforts and we agreed that it was best to reschedule the meeting.

We greatly appreciate those who also attended and contributed to the Headwater Stream workshop in February and follow up communications via email and phone since our meeting. **We gained many insights regarding the challenges facing headwater stream management from agency and nonprofit perspectives that will help more quickly identify and reduce impediments to collaborative management for a diversity of partners.**

We have decided not to lead another workshop for headwater stream collaborative management in the Merrimack for two reasons. First, as previously mentioned, there were significant hurdles to developing headwater stream management at the scale of the Merrimack River watershed using a bi-state approach. Second, our grant funding on this project is wrapping up soon and we unfortunately do not have the time to take the lead in further developing a watershed cooperative. **Thus, our leadership team is transitioning into a supportive role in the development of the watershed cooperative.**

**We would like to continue to assist the development of the cooperative by contributing, identifying, and submitting proposals to expand and support the development of a watershed-scale decision model. This means that we can still provide technical assistance, support, and play a consulting role in helping address the challenging conservation problems and planning decisions in the Merrimack Watershed.**

We are currently developing several products based on our experiences working you and your partners, as well as those partners in other watershed groups (i.e., Deerfield Watershed - CT River Basin and Potomac River Basin). **We will produce two scientific publications:** one focused on lessons learned for conducting landscape collaborative management from management and research perspectives, and a second focused on the potential effects of alternative land protection schemes on the future state of headwater biota (brook trout and salamanders) given the uncertainties in values tradeoffs, availability of scientific information, and future climate change, using the Deerfield Watershed landscape as a case-study. We will distribute these publications once they are in press and welcome any comments and feedback regarding their utility to your decision-making in the Merrimack. We also encourage you to continue exploring the spatial distribution of various landscape variables, brook trout occupancy and stream temperature predictions for the Merrimack and subwatersheds on the **Interactive Catchment Explorer** ([ice.ecosheds.org](http://ice.ecosheds.org)) and **Spatial EcoHydrology Decision Support** ([ecosheds.org](http://ecosheds.org)) websites and provide feedback and additional information needs to Dr. Ben Letcher ([bletcher@usgs.gov](mailto:bletcher@usgs.gov)).

Thank you again for your continued involvement, enthusiasm, and willingness to creatively identify the impediments and opportunities for headwater conservation in the

Merrimack. We look forward to seeing many successful projects in the watershed and are happy to advise on any challenging research or decision-making problems.

Regards,

Rachel Katz, Evan Grant, Allison Roy, Ben Letcher, Dan Hocking, and Michael Runge

Rachel A. Katz, Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, [rakatz@umass.edu](mailto:rakatz@umass.edu)

Evan H. Campbell Grant, U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, [ehgrant@usgs.gov](mailto:ehgrant@usgs.gov)

Allison H. Roy, U.S. Geological Survey, Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, [aroy@eco.umass.edu](mailto:aroy@eco.umass.edu)

Benjamin H. Letcher, U.S. Geological Survey, Leetown Science Center, SO Conte Anadromous Fish Research Branch, [bletcher@usgs.gov](mailto:bletcher@usgs.gov)

Dan Hocking, U.S. Geological Survey, SO Conte Anadromous Fish Research Branch, [dhocking@usgs.gov](mailto:dhocking@usgs.gov)

Michael C. Runge, U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, [mrunge@usgs.gov](mailto:mrunge@usgs.gov)

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Rachel Katz, PhD  
[rakatz@umass.edu](mailto:rakatz@umass.edu)

919.619.4164 (c)  
413.863.3855 (w)

Website: <http://rachelakatz.wix.com/home>  
Follow me on twitter: [@rachelakatz](https://twitter.com/rachelakatz)

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Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Northeast Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative  
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
S.O. Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory  
USGS Leetown Science Center

